IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 9, 32, 39, 40, 65, 72, and 73, as set forth below.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

1   5.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

2   a router ~~having a port~~, the router coupled with a network;

3   a number of dispatchers coupled with the ~~port~~ <u>router</u>, each of the dispatchers having a

4   local dispatch table, wherein at least two of the dispatchers share a session entry

5   identifying a client and a selected server; and

6   a plurality of servers, each of the plurality of servers coupled with each of the number of

7   dispatchers;

8   wherein the router directs each communication received from the network to one of the

9   number of dispatchers, the one dispatcher to determine which of the plurality of

10   servers is to receive the communication.

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1   6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number

2   dispatchers and the plurality of servers are interconnected by a system area network.

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1   7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, the system area network exhibiting an

2   InfiniBand® architecture.

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1   8.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the network

2   comprises one or more networks selected from a group consisting of a Local Area

3   Network, a Wide Area Network, a Metropolitan Area Network, and the Internet.

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1   9.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, <u>wherein the number of</u>

2   <u>dispatchers are coupled with a port of the router,</u> the port of the router exhibiting port

3   trunking.

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1   10.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of

2   dispatchers have identical network addresses.

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1   11.   (Original) The system of claim 5, the plurality of servers comprising:

2   a first server group providing a first application; and

3   at least a second server group providing a second, different application.

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1   12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, each of the first server group and the

2   second server group comprising at least one server.

Claims 13-31 (Canceled)

1   32.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

2   receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of

3   dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;

4   searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;

5   transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if

6   the local dispatch table identifies the server; and

7   transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of

8   dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock

9   indicating that communications received from ~~the~~ a client are to be transmitted to

10   the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

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1   33.   (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table

2   includes the client lock, the method further comprising:

3   selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and

4   transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1   34.   (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a

2   dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality

3   of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating

4   removal of the client lock.

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1   35.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

2   receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet

3   including a connection request from a client;

4   creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that

5   packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a

6   server is selected for the client; and

7   broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of

8   the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

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1   36.   (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

2   receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

3   transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1   37.   (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and

3   transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1   38.   (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting

2   another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said

3   another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the

4   client lock.

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1   39.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

2   receiving a packet at a router ~~having a port,~~ the router coupled with a plurality of

3   dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from a client;

4   transmitting the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers;

5   selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers;

6   placing a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry

7   identifying the client and the selected server;

8   broadcasting a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of

9   the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the

10   selected server;

11   transmitting the packet to the selected server;

12   receiving a second packet at the router from the client; and

13   transmitting the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of

14   dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second

15   dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the

16   selected server.

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1   40.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

2   selecting a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the

3   plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with

4   ~~the~~ a port of the router; and

5   transmitting the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

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1   41.   (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising randomly selecting

2   the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

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1   42.   (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

2   determining a load on each of the plurality of servers; and

3   selecting the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

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1   43.   (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

2   identifying an application associated with the packet; and

3   selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

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1   44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the first

2   dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of

3   dispatchers.

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1   45.   (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising replacing in the

2   packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a

3   network address of the selected server.

          Claims 46-64 (Canceled)

1   65.   (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of

5   dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;

6   search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;

7   transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers

8   if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and

9   transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the

10   plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the

11   client lock indicating that communications received from ~~the~~ a client are

12   to be transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the

13   client.

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1   66.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table

2   including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the

3   machine to:

4   select a server from the plurality of servers; and

5   transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1   67.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table

3   update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers,

4   the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the

5   client lock.

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1   68.   (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first

5   packet including a connection request from a client;

6   create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating

7   that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one

8   dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and

9   broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers

10   of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the

11   client lock.

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1   69.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:

3   receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

4   transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1   70.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and

4   transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1   71.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch

3   table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch

4   table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

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1   72.   (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   receive a packet at a router ~~having a port,~~ the router coupled with a plurality of

5   dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from a client;

6   transmit the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of

7   dispatchers;

8   select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of

9   dispatchers;

10   place a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session

11   entry identifying the client and the selected server;

12   broadcast a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers

13   - of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the

14   client and the selected server;

15   transmit the packet to the selected server;

16   receive a second packet at the router from the client; and

17   transmit the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality

18   of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the

19   second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second

20   packet to the selected server.

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1   73.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   select a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the

4   plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with

5   ~~the~~ a port of the router; and

6   transmit the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

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1   74.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 73, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to randomly select the

3   communication link from the plurality of communication links.

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1   75.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   determine a load on each of the plurality of servers; and

4   select the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

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1   76.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   identify an application associated with the packet; and

4   select the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

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1   77.   (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein

2   the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the

3   plurality of dispatchers.

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1   78.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to replace in the packet a network

3   address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the

4   selected server.